

H O B B Y

Bandwagon

NOV.- DEC. 1949

15c

Merry
Christmas



HOBBY

Bandwagon

**122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio**

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**HARRY M. SIMPSON
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**Merry
Christmas**

SHANK PHOTOS

**Clarence R. Shank
Member of CHS and CFA**

Camden, Ohio

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*The
Publisher
Says*



During the past month, members of the Circus Historical Society have received a copy of the new roster as issued and compiled by Robert C. King, secretary of the Society. It is a fine, well printed roster and proof that our hard working secretary is really on the job.

John C. Kunzog of Jamestown, N. Y., has called my attention to the fact that P. T. Barnum is almost forgotten in his former home of Bridgeport, Conn. The museum of that city which was donated by the late P. T. Barnum, has moved what little they have of this famous man to the third floor. I personally believe this is an error on the part of the city that Barnum made famous and so generously gave them a museum and hope that some day they will see their mistake and give Barnum a place of honor in his museum. Mr Kunzog relates that the Bridgeport Library is doing a grand job under the supervision of Mrs. Clara B. Pierce and is making great progress with its collection of Circassiana . . . our "hats off" to the Bridgeport, Conn., Library . . . keep up the good work!

Here we are back to the Holiday Season again. It is the hope of this magazine and its readers that you and yours will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a BIG 1950 Circus Season.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Simpson

—o—

Does your friend take Hobby-Bandwagon? Tell him about it.

Gargantua Is Dead

Greatest Attraction Since "Jumbo"

On November 25th, the "circus world" and entire nation were shocked by the announcement that Gargantua was dead. Not since the death of the famed elephant Jumbo, has the circus lost such a



GARGANTUA THE GREAT

Robert D. Good Photo.

great attraction. Gargantua died of pneumonia while appearing in Miami, Fla., with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

"Gargy," as he was called by those close to the circus, was purchased in 1937 by John Ringling North for a sum of \$10,000 from Mrs. Gertrude Lintz of Brooklyn, N. Y. This great gorilla has contributed much to the success of the "Big One" and has no doubt meant millions to the owners.

Gargantua began his life in Africa in 1929 and was brought to this

country by a sea captain, his first owner. While at sea in 1932, a sailor, who had been discharged by the captain, threw nitric acid in his face . . . this accounted for his disfigured upper lip. Mrs. Lintz bought him for \$3500.

Gargantua weighed 312 pounds, was 5 feet, 7 1-2 inches tall, his hand was 4 1-2 inches wide and foot was 11 1-2 inches long. He was 20 years of age. An autopsy by John Hopkins in Baltimore, indicated that he had ailments of tuberculosis, pneumonia and cancer of the upper lip. He will be stuffed and placed in Yale University Museum.

Like a real trouper, he performed up to the very last . . . like Jumbo, he will be remembered forever.

WANTED

Al. G. Barnes CIRCUS ROUTES

1912—13—14—15—16

Also Photos of
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—Write—

Robt. J. "Bob" Bernard

1625 N. Harvard Blvd.,
Hollywood 27, Calif.

Newspaper Reprint Reveals History Of Great Wallace Show

Courtesy of George Piercy

A STRONG SHOW

The B. E. Wallace Amusement Enterprise Fulfills All Promises

One Of The Best Ring Performers Ever Offered In The Country

It is to be regretted that on the occasion of his first visit to Kokomo, with his excellent show, Colonel B. E. Wallace should have encountered weather more fitting for a curling tournament or an ice-boat race, than a circus performance. Though the business was light both in the afternoon and night, the weather being intensely cold for the season of the year, Colonel Wallace made good the promise of the bill, and gave Kokomo one of the best and most up-to-date shows ever witnessed here. The parade is an attractive and interesting one. Every chariot and den glistens like silver in its fresh coat of paint. All the wardrobe is entirely new, and no enterprise in the country carries as handsome stock.

The chill winds made it necessary to keep closed many of the dens that are usually opened, but even with this, it was a street pageant of which any show might be proud. On the grounds every stitch of

canvas is new and throughout everything bears the mark of prosperity which Mr. Wallace has well earned during the past few years.

It is doubtful if as good a ring performance is given by any show in the country as that offered by Mr. Wallace this season. Nothing is spared in the way of high grade talent that a liberal expenditure of money can procure. It includes the Nelson family of acrobats, which was the leading feature of the Ringling Shows on their last appearance here, and whose work is more marvelous than ever. The family numbers nine performers, ranging in age from a tot of four years to the father, a man of forty-five, everyone of them an artist of first rank. Both in individual and team work, they more than sustain the claim made for them as the premier acrobats of the world. Among other notable features are the three Perets in aerial feats; Blanche Reed and Sallie Hughes in high class menage acts;

Season's
Greetings

—from—

Elen Tracy
Painter of the Circus

Season's Greetings To Circus Folks
and Circus Fans Everywhere!

THE GUNROOM BOOKSELLERS
North Castine, Maine

Specializing in Books on Guns, Horses, Hunting, Fishing, The Sea and The Circus.

the Martinetti sisters in slack and tight wire work; Oscar Lowande and Joseph Leicher in principal riding acts; the D'Alvarez troupe, the Martell family in aerial performances and Girard Leon, the new Svengali and his singing mule "Trilby." There is also a large and well drilled ballet headed by Mlle Hilda Maccari, premier danseuse. There is not a dull moment in the performance from the grand entree to the last of the exciting hippodrome races, and the numerous acts are so arranged that the spectator does not lose a portion of them through confusion, as is too often the case in the latter day circuses.

Another commendable feature is the courteous treatment accorded every patron by the employees of the show. This is not confined to the reserved seat section, and no effort is spared to enhance the comfort and enjoyment of every visitor. The "faker" and "grafter" happily and wholly absent. There is not a chance game or fleecing scheme of any kind on the ground and for the past four years no

Next Page, Please

Human Oddity Photos!

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Greetings . . .

TO ALL C. H. S. MEMBERS

The new Roster was mailed on December 1, 1949. I find that some members did not receive a copy of this Roster. If you are one of those members please write to me and I'll get one out to you at once.

I WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Robert C. King

Secretary Circus Historical Society

show has been so free of this detestable feature of show life as has been the Wallace concern. In every department it is a scrupulously clean, refined and excellently managed amusement enterprise, and well merits the success with which it has met.

The press work this year is in charge of Edmund J. Buckley of Grand Rapids, Mich., a newspaper man of wide experience and a most courteous and affable gentleman.—Kokomo, Ind., Dispatch. April 20, 1892.

HOW HE "BROKE IN"

"Colonel" Wallace Overlooks Something In His Reminiscences

A Kokomo man—John M. Leach—had a narrow escape from being a millionaire showman. Years ago he was importuned by Ben E. Wallace of Peru, to join him in an amusement venture, in which Mr. Leach, who was then in the livery stable business, could employ his stock to what Mr. Wallace believed to be a better advantage than renting it to commercial travelers, covering the country towns and to the swains and sweethearts on Sunday. Therefore, a part of "Colonel" Wallace's story told at Anderson the other day, must be taken cum grano salis:

"It was by accident that I started into the show business," said Mr. Wallace. For many years I kept a livery stable at Peru, and in 1881 a small acrobatic company, stranded in the town. I loaned them \$500, and finally had to take the property for the money. I started it in my barn. A year later, a man named Anderson came along. He had some money and he wanted to join me and go into the show business. We bought a little menagerie out west. The cages were sent to the shop for repairs and the animals put in a barn. The next night the barn burned down and our menagerie had turned to dust and ashes. We got more animals together and started a wagon show. We made money from the start. A few years afterwards, I bought out Anderson. In 1885 we changed it from a wagon to a railroad show.

Mr. Wallace said the property he was carrying was worth from

\$175,000 to \$200,000. His daily expenses are from \$1600 to \$1800. His elephants cost him \$2500 to \$10,00 each, his lions from \$1800 to \$3000 and leopards from \$300 to \$800. In the way of railroad cars, he has one which was built at a cost to him of \$5500.—Kokomo, Ind., Dispatch, April 24, 1897

—o—

The 1949 Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros. route book is one of the finest books published in recent years and has many illustrations. This book sells for \$1 and can be purchased from Art Miller, A. G. Kelly-Miller Bros. Circus, Hugo, Okla., or Bill Green, 312 North C St., Washington, Kansas. Don't miss this route book.

WANTED TO BUY

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Greetings

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AMERICAN

CIRCUS

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Curator, C.H.S. 437

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1939
By Don Smith

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NEW MEMBERS

448—Floyd L. McClintock, 924 Trenton Ave., Uhrichsville, Ohio.
449—Fred Barstow, 1612 Fifth Ave., New Brighton, Pa.

Glen Tracy, America's favorite painter of the circus, exhibited his fine circus paintings Nov. 22 to Dec. 8 at the Miami Beach Art Center, Public Library, Miami Beach, Fla. Mr. and Mrs. Tracy will visit circus winterquarters at Sarasota and Miami, Fla., and exhibit paintings in other important Florida cities before returning home for the Cincinnati exhibit in February. Mr. Tracy is a member of CHS and CFA.

Col. Wm. H. Woodcock recently had the Al. G. Kelly-Miller Bros. elephants at the Shrine Circuses in Houston, Texas, and Wichita, Kans.

—o—

C. L. Brown, bandmaster of Cole Bros. Circus for 1949 and honorary member of CHS, has accepted a position teaching music at the Cochran Music Studio, Kansas City, Mo.

—o—

Mrs. Bette Leonard had as Thanksgiving guests, Mr. and Mrs. Oberl Miller and daughter, Barbara Jane, Ione Stevens, James Hamiter and William Woodcock, all of the Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros. Circus.

—o—



This is the Tenth Year of Christmas Greetings from "The Circus Historical Society" and as its President, I want to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the members and to all lovers of the Circus all over the world. May the Holiday Season bring to one and all a fullness of Joy and Happiness beyond words to express.

Sincerely,

Bette Leonard

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2 inches	\$ 2.00
4 inches	\$ 3.00
Full Page	\$10.00

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HOBBY-BANDWAGON

Camden, Ohio

**JAMES LIVINGSTON
HONORARY CHS MEMBER
BEGAN CAREER IN 1884**

Recollections of over 50 years ago are often related by James Livingston, an ex-circus man who is past 80 years of age and who resides in the Brooks apartments on East Second street, directly opposite Shea's Theatre Billed as "America's Greatest Contortionist," Mr. Livingston's first visit to Jamestown was back in 1891, when he played here with Adam Forepaugh's Circus, which was one of the first circuses in the country to use railroad transportation. Previous to this circuses moved from town to town by wagons pulled by horses, oftentimes resulting in cancelling their billing because they could not reach their destination due to muddy roads Many remember Rolling Thunder's Medicine Show, which played on the lot at the corner of Harrison and Institute streets where the Maddox Table Company now stands, and the contortionist with Rolling Thunder's Show was the same Mr. Livingston, who is today relating the episodes of a half-century ago in circus life, which were but a step from the "wandering minstrels" of earlier days, but so far removed from the gala attractions of today, which travel by Pullman and fast freight, and which are veritable communities of some 1,200 persons moving with today's scientific advantages of electric power, Diesel engines and gasoline, with a mobility that has startled the military experts of the world In the days of Livingston's zenith circus illumination was supplied by large kerosene lamps fastened to the center-poles of the tents from which many jets radiated, like the spokes of a wheel Electricity was introduced for illumination in circuses by Cooper, Bailey and Hutchinson's Great London Shows in 1880 by the use of arc lamps. A steam boiler on the calliope furnished the steam which was diverted to a steam engine which was coupled to a dynamo which generated the electricity, and many of the circus patrons marvelled at this creation of science in those days as more awe-inspiring than the efforts of the players and the occupants of the menagerie.

Starting in a circus career, back in 1884, the stories of adventure and the experiences related by this man, who was billed as the world's greatest contortionist, fill by far, more space than can be allotted to this article.—Jamestown, N. Y., newspaper.

Season's Greetings

EDDIE JACKSON

Apt. 3 64 Hawthorne Ave.
Akron 3, Ohio

Yuletide Greetings

DR. H. POWERS

110½ E. Washington Ave.
South Bend 1, Ind.

Newspaper Article Recalls Campbell Bros. Circus Fire

Courtesy of Bill Green

Many of the old timers in Pawnee community can well remember—and still talk about—the burning of the show train of the Campbell Bros. circus some 45 years ago.

When Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fay and son, Jimy, Stephen Boren and Harry Lane attended the Cole Bros. Circus in Beatrice, last Friday, it was by chance that their seats were next to those of Mr. Campbell, who had owned the circus, and his daughter of Fairbury, Nebr.

As the circus entertainment started, Mr. Campbell, who is now about 90 years old, showed a great interest and knowledge of the circus acts and entertainers. His daughter explained to Mrs. Fay that he subscribed to all the circus magazines and attended all of the circuses within driving distance.

They talked about the disastrous fire that killed the carload of animals. The story as taken from the May 1, 1904, files of THE REPUBLICAN, tells the following story:

"Last Sunday night, a disastrous fire occurred to the show train of Campbell Bros., which had arrived from Fairbury earlier in the evening preparatory to the big show to be given here on the following day. About 11 o'clock the keeper went through the elephant car to see that all was right for the night, when the gasoline torch

which he carried exploded. The entire car was immediately in flames and all the animals, 3 elephants, 4 camels, 2 Sacred Cattle, and one black bear, were burned to death.

"The loss is estimated at \$20,000 with no insurance. The large elephant, Venus, for which the Campbell Bros. had been offered \$12,000, was one which was burn-

Next Page, Please

Greetings and Best Wishes

To all my fellow members and thanks for the friendship.

Christmas 1949

Sid Baker

Bondi, Australia



Season's Greetings

—from—

The Simpsons
of Hobby-Bandwagon

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

It was a pleasure to have met so many at the convention and hope to have many return engagements.

WILLIAM KASISKA

Baraboo, Wisconsin

ed. She was a man killer and had killed a number of men in her time. She had been with the show ever since it started, as had also her keeper, Nadi.

"The burned car was the only one that had not been unloaded, and the animal keepers say that one of the big doors was partly open while they went to supper, thinking everything was safe, as the animals were partly stalled. They returned to the car after supper to feed and bed the stock. Seven men were in the car when the eighth, a Negro manager of the animals, entered carrying a gasoline torch. A portion of the burner broke, letting the oil escape more freely. The escaping oil caused the blaze to flash up and burn the Negro's hand. He turned the torch to keep the blaze from burning him seriously and in some way the oil can came unjointed from the pipe and fell in a blaze upon the straw. In a moment the interior of the entire car was a mass of flames. With difficulty the men escaped without serious injury.

"The city fire department responded to the alarm, but the fire had done its work before the department arrived. The air was filled with the odor of burning flesh of the animals which were tightly enclosed and without possible show of escape. A heavy stream of water finally quenched the flames of the burning car and probably saved from destruction the elevator of Scheck & Johnston and the Rock Island depot, which stood but a few feet distant from the fire. The carcasses of the dead animals were buried west of town."

The remains of the elephant were dug up later; reassembled and put on exhibit in Morrill Hall on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln.

From the PAWNEE REPUBLICAN,
Thursday, July 28, 1949
Pawnee City, Nebraska.

PAYS TO SEE PARADE

Leonard Weigle of Atlanta, Ga., relates the following story: "An old gentleman, Jeff Phillips, known as 'Cousin Jeff,' works for the city of Augusta. When a boy, Jeff lived in the country, about fifteen

miles from Augusta. Adam Forepaugh's circus was billed for Augusta. His father told him that he would give him a dollar to go to the show, and to hitch up the mule to the wagon, leave early in the morning, find out where the lot was and who to pay. When Jeff came up the main business street, he saw the parade a few blocks away approaching. He drove around the corner, hitched the mule and saw the parade. When it was over, he asked the nearest policeman 'Is this all they are going to have?' The policeman answered in the affirmative. Jeff wanted to know if he could pay someone, and the policeman said: 'You can just pay me.' He paid the policeman and went back to the country."

—o—

The Clown Band of Ansar Temple (A. A. O. N. M. S.) of Springfield, Ill., is trying to secure an old circus bandwagon which can be rehabilitated and used when their band is playing for Shrine and other affairs. If any readers know where one can be secured please write Wm. H. Kewley, Sangamo Construction Co., Box 222, Springfield, Ill.

—o—

PAY TRIBUTE TO CIRCUS FAN

Mills Bros. Circus, George Duffy, Doc Waddell and Burma recently paid tribute to the late William T. Linney at the Ft. Plain, N. Y., cemetery. A wreath was placed on the Linney grave by Jack Mills and his famous elephant, Burma. George Duffy played host to 2000 children while Mills Bros. played Fort Plain, N. Y. Duffy is owner of two free circus lots in that city.

—o—

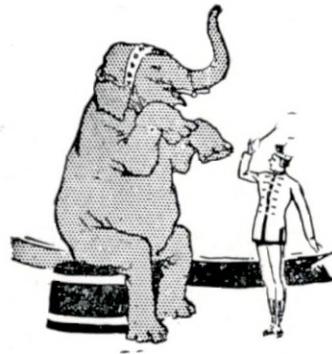
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Season's Greetings



**MILLS BROS.
3-Ring Circus**

Season's Greetings



C. Spencer Chambers

P. O. Box 722

Syracuse 1, N. Y., U. S. A.

Andrew Wachter
P. O. Box 423
Greensboro, N. C.
CHS04